

Falls Church Senior Citizens Commission
Minutes of Meeting
February 15, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Pollack at 4:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Bea Brady, Jan Greenberg, Mary Hood, Susan Pollack,
Staff: Letha Flippin

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes for the January 25, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Older Americans Month Event - The Commission continued discussing plans for Older Americans Month, and their special activity will be participating in the Senior Center Health Fair on May 23rd. Staff from the Senior Center could not attend the Commission's meeting to discuss the event (as suggested in January), but Letha Flippin was able to provide information about set-up, activities and other plans for the event. The Commission will have a table with an informational handout, and also decided to order insulated lunch bags with the Commission name imprinted to give out to attendees. The Commission also discussed whether to have healthy food for participants at the event. Some demonstrations will be held; individuals are welcome to contact Senior Center staff with suggestions, and are encouraged to provide contact information for presenters. It was also suggested that the Commission survey attendees to see what services are currently not being provided to seniors by the City that they would like to have available. It was noted that many attendees at the fair will not be City residents, and that information would need to be collected in the survey, as well. Letha reported that the Senior Center does a senior center survey annually, and will make copies of last years' survey available to the Commission. Finally, the Commission brainstormed about what other City groups to invite to the event to expand participation; suggestions included the League of Women Voters, and perhaps church groups for seniors. Finally, Susan Pollack suggested the Commission also play the video that was made on Falls Church Seniors during the event. The commission will try to have the videotape converted to DVD and Susan can provide a DVD player.

Letha also reported that the theme for Older Americans Month this year is "Independence + Dignity + Choice = Healthy Aging," and there will be other area-wide and national activities to celebrate, including a Walk on the Mall. The Commission might consider asking for a proclamation from Council to honor older Americans in May.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Boards and Commissions Fair - Bea Brady reported on her participation in the Boards and Commissions Fair. She said attendance was poor, but it was a good opportunity to learn about all of the Boards and Commissions. She also noted she encouraged the other Commissioners to remember the needs of seniors as they made their recommendations to Council.

- 6. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT** - The Chair had no report.
- 7. STAFF REPORT** - Letha Flippin reported that the Department of Housing and Human Services is accepting rent and tax relief applications currently, and will hold two workshops on this subject.
Letha also reminded those commissioners who need to apply for reappointment to do so.
The commission also briefly discussed real estate tax relief, and the option of reverse mortgages as an income stream for seniors who are “house rich and cash poor.”
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**– the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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